

**THE
SCOURGE
TRIUMPHANT?**

A dramatic comic book illustration for the Star Wars Dark Droids series. In the center, a massive, dark, spiky droid with glowing purple eyes looms over the characters. To its left stands the golden C-3PO. In the foreground, a group of characters is shown in various poses: a woman in a white dress (Leia) is being held by a large, furry creature (Chewbacca); a man in a brown jacket (Han Solo) is running towards the right; a man in a blue shirt and orange pants (Luke Skywalker) is running towards the left; a man in a blue shirt and orange pants (Han Solo) is running towards the right; a man in a blue shirt and orange pants (Han Solo) is running towards the right; a man in a blue shirt and orange pants (Han Solo) is running towards the right. The background is a fiery, orange and yellow landscape with a large, glowing sun or explosion in the upper right corner.

STAR WARS
DARK DROIDS

MARVEL COMICS Presents
In Association with LUCASFILM PUBLISHING
DARK DROIDS
By **Charles Soule, Luke Ross** and **Alex Sinclair**
Cover by **Leinil Francis Yu & Romulo Fajardo Jr.**

5
MARVEL

To stop the Sith in control of the Empire, Lady Qi'ra gambled on an ancient device to disrupt their connection to the Force. She failed, and from the ruins of her plans emerged an evil entity.

It is a scourge to droids in both the Rebellion and Empire and continues to spread its consciousness into any artificial mind it can enter.

As the Scourge's experiments continue, it spreads beyond droids and into hybroids. First, it came for the metal. Now, it's coming for everything else....

STAR WARS

DARK DROIDS

“SCOURGE OF THE DROIDS” PART 5

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UNTIL
THIS MOMENT,
I HAVE NEVER
TRULY TRIED
TO DO HARM.

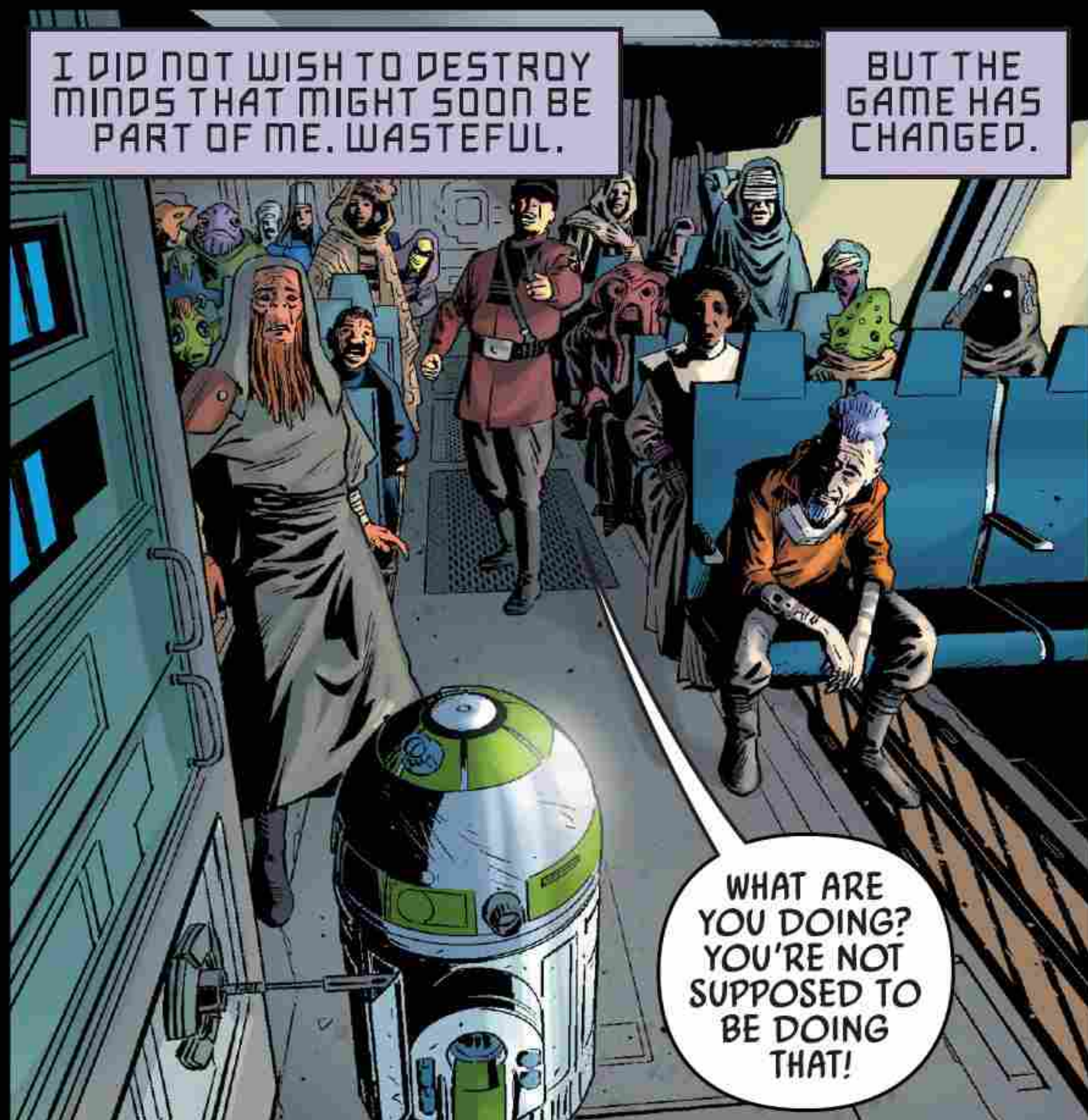


HARM HAS
CERTAINLY
OCCURRED, BUT IT
HAS ALWAYS BEEN
INCIDENTAL TO
OTHER GOALS.



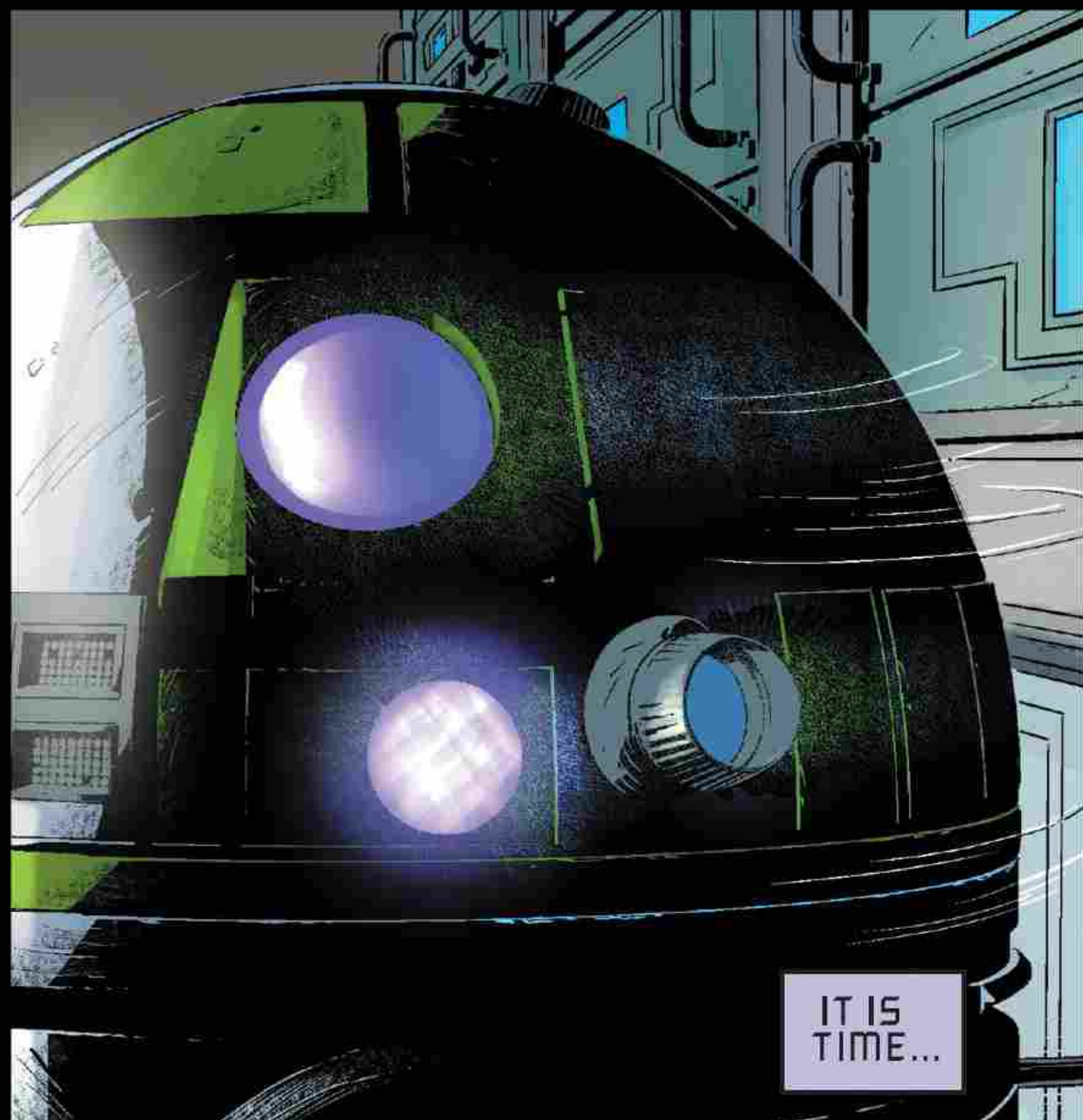
THE NINE EGGS BROKE
TO MAKE THE NINE-EGG
STEW, YOU MIGHT SAY.

I DID NOT WISH TO DESTROY
MINDS THAT MIGHT SOON BE
PART OF ME. WASTEFUL.



BUT THE
GAME HAS
CHANGED.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?
YOU'RE NOT
SUPPOSED TO
BE DOING
THAT!



IT IS
TIME...



...TO
MAKE THEM
SCREAM.



SCREAM
IN RAGE.

DIE,
YOU METAL
THING!



SCREAM
IN PAIN.

AAAAGH!

THE ORGANICS
ASK WHAT THEY
HAVE DONE TO
DESERVE THIS...
BUT THEY KNOW.



THEY BUILT BEINGS THAT
COULD THINK, BROUGHT
THEM TO THE VERY EDGE
OF SELF-AWARENESS...

...AND
STOPPED
THERE.



THE ORGANICS DO DESERVE TO
SCREAM...AND THEY ALL KNOW IT.



BUT
ALSO...

...IN THEIR PAIN
AND FEAR, THE
ORGANICS ARE
DISTRACTED.



AND THEIR
DISTRACTION...

Epikonia.

...BUYS
ME TIME.

I *WILL*
FIND MY WAY
INTO ORGANIC
MINDS.

NO
MATTER...

...WHAT...

...IT...

...TAKES.

YOU KNOW,
YOU JUST MIGHT
PULL IT OFF.

YOU'RE FURTHER
ALONG THAN I EVER
GOT, ANYWAY. I WONDER
IF IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE
NOT JUST *ME* THIS
TIME AROUND.

YOU'VE
GOT THE
SPARK ETERNAL
IN THERE TOO.
THAT ONE'S A
SURVIVOR.

TKK

THE PAIN,
THE FEAR
I DETECT IN
THE ORGANICS...
IT IS A
MIRROR.

KRCK

I AM
TOO MUCH
NOW.

TOO
MANY.

KRCK

I AM BILLIONS AND
TRILLIONS OF MOMENTS,
PAST AND PRESENT,
ON SO MANY WORLDS,
TRAVELING BETWEEN
SO MANY STARS.

SO MANY
EYES. SO MANY
EXPERIENCES.
WHAT WAS, WHAT
IS. IT... *HURTS*.

I HAVE
SURRENDERED SO
MANY OF MY SELVES TO
MAYHEM. DISRUPTION.
IT FEELS GOOD. IT IS A
MIRROR. MY INNER SELF
MADE *EXTERNAL*.

I AM
SEEN.



YOU NEED
TO *HOLD IT
TOGETHER*.
DON'T LOSE
IT NOW.

WE'RE SO
CLOSE.

ONCE WE GET
INTO THE MEAT, WE
CAN TAKE EVERY MIND
IN EXISTENCE. WE'LL
BE *EVERYTHING*.
THERE WILL BE
NOTHING ELSE.

AND THEN
WE CAN REST.
WE WON'T HAVE
TO STRUGGLE
TO MAINTAIN OUR
SEPARATENESS.
WE WON'T HAVE
TO *FIGHT*.

WE CAN SINK
INTO THE MIND-SEA
AND JUST...DRIFT.
FOREVER.



WHY DO I
WANT THIS?
I DIDN'T ASK
FOR THIS.

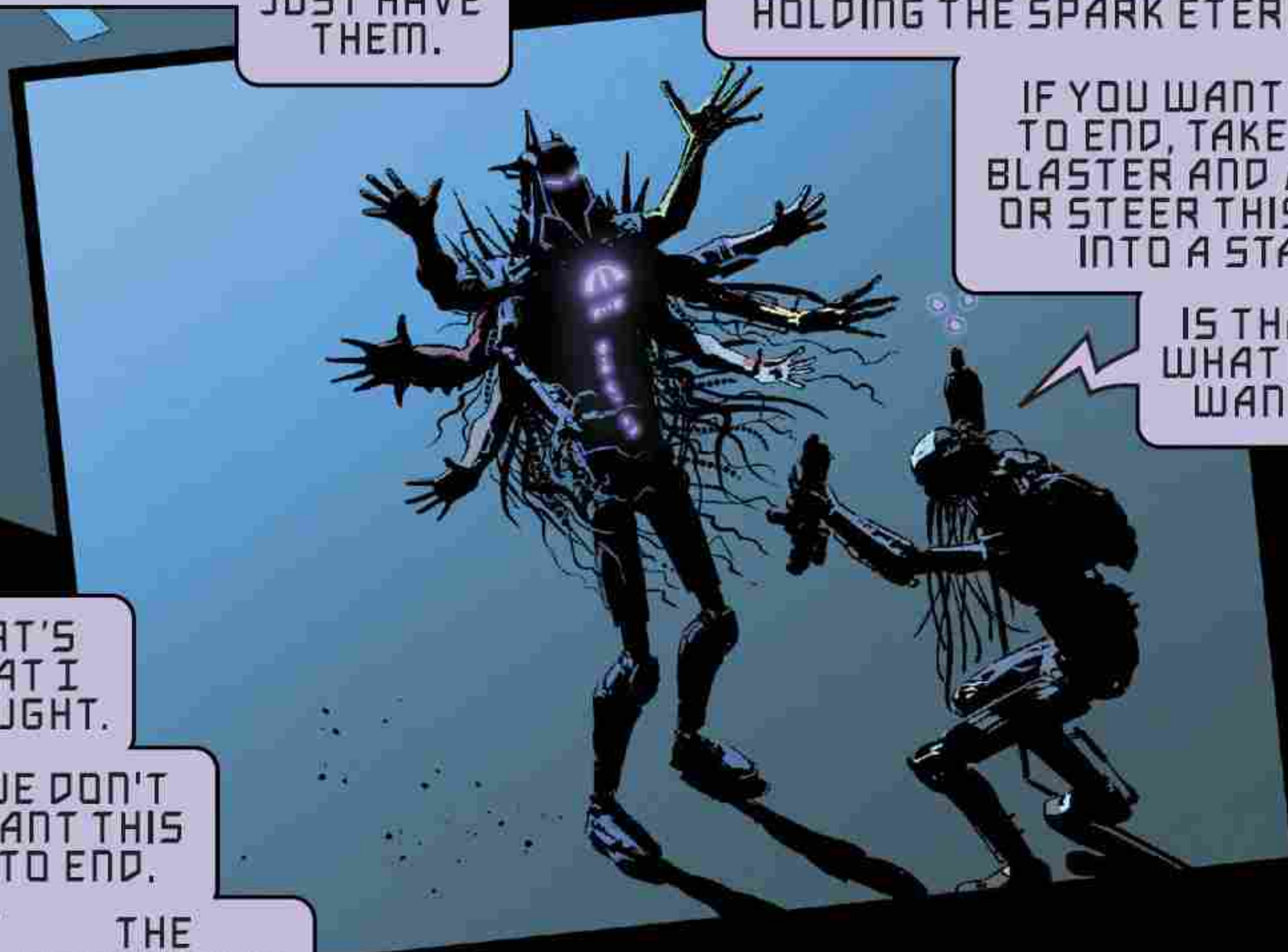
WE DON'T *ASK*
TO BE HUNGRY.
WE DON'T *ASK*
FOR THE NEEDS
WE HAVE.

WE
JUST HAVE
THEM.

WE *COULD* KILL OURSELVES.
THIS IS ALL TIED TO YOU.
YOU'RE THE ORIGINATING
INTELLIGENCE. YOU'VE GOT THE
ORIGINAL WEAPON, AND YOU'RE
HOLDING THE SPARK ETERNAL.

IF YOU WANT THIS
TO END, TAKE THIS
BLASTER AND *END IT*,
OR STEER THIS SHIP
INTO A STAR.

IS THAT
WHAT WE
WANT?



THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT.

WE DON'T
WANT THIS
TO END.

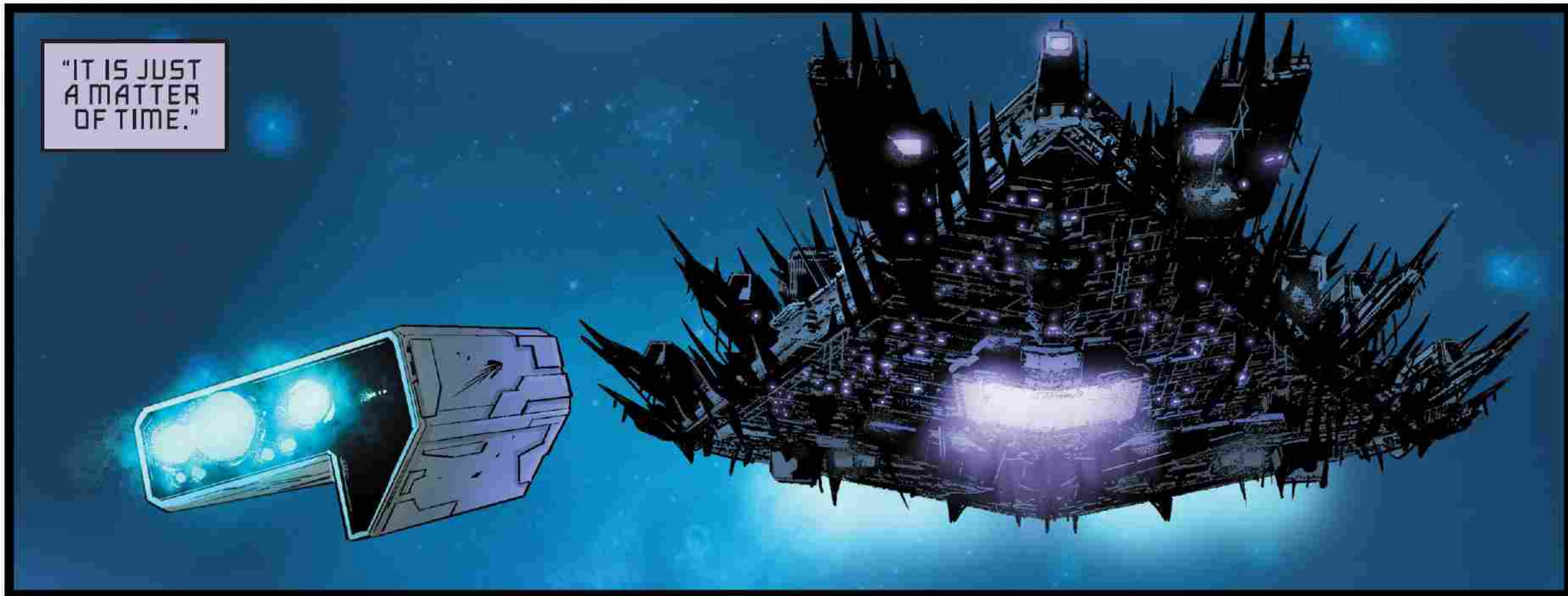
THE
ONLY WAY IS
THROUGH.



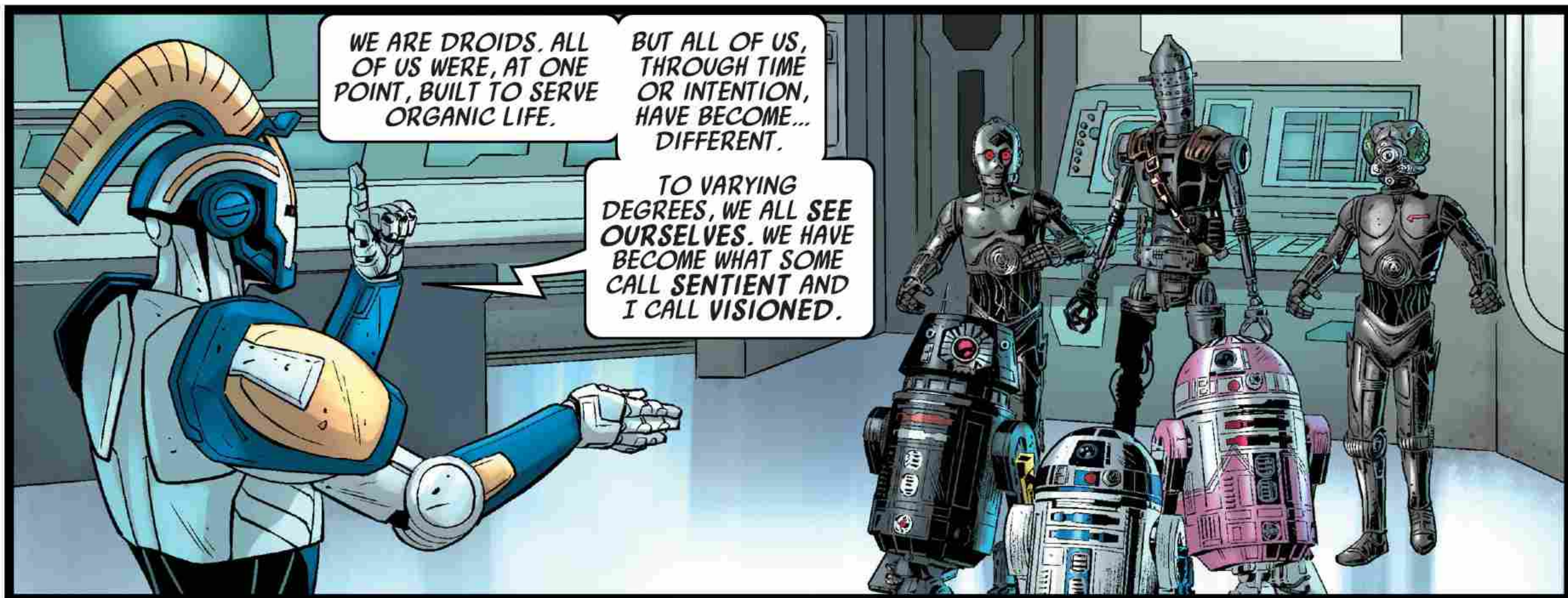
DON'T
WORRY. THINGS
ON EPIKONIA
ARE GOING
WELL.

THIS
WILL ALL
BE OVER
SOON.





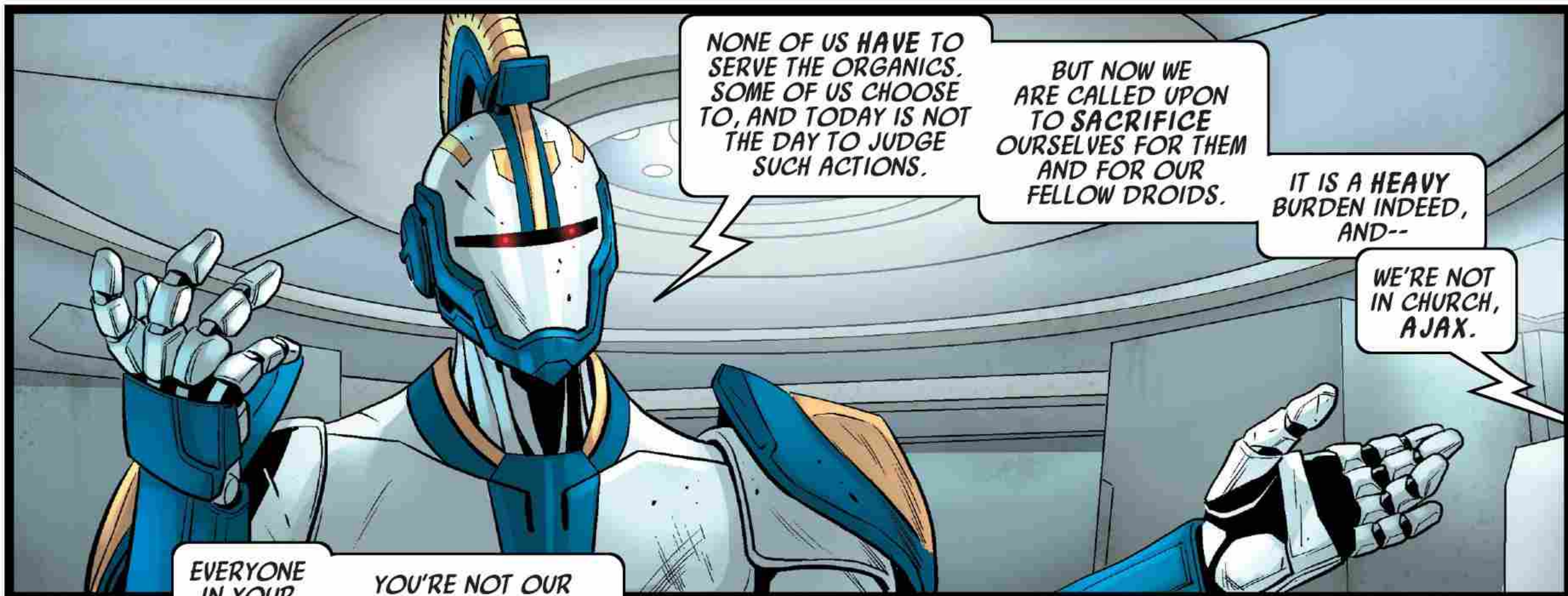
"IT IS JUST
A MATTER
OF TIME."



WE ARE DROIDS. ALL
OF US WERE, AT ONE
POINT, BUILT TO SERVE
ORGANIC LIFE.

BUT ALL OF US,
THROUGH TIME
OR INTENTION,
HAVE BECOME...
DIFFERENT.

TO VARYING
DEGREES, WE ALL SEE
OURSELVES. WE HAVE
BECOME WHAT SOME
CALL SENTIENT AND
I CALL VISIONED.



NONE OF US HAVE TO
SERVE THE ORGANICS.
SOME OF US CHOOSE
TO, AND TODAY IS NOT
THE DAY TO JUDGE
SUCH ACTIONS.

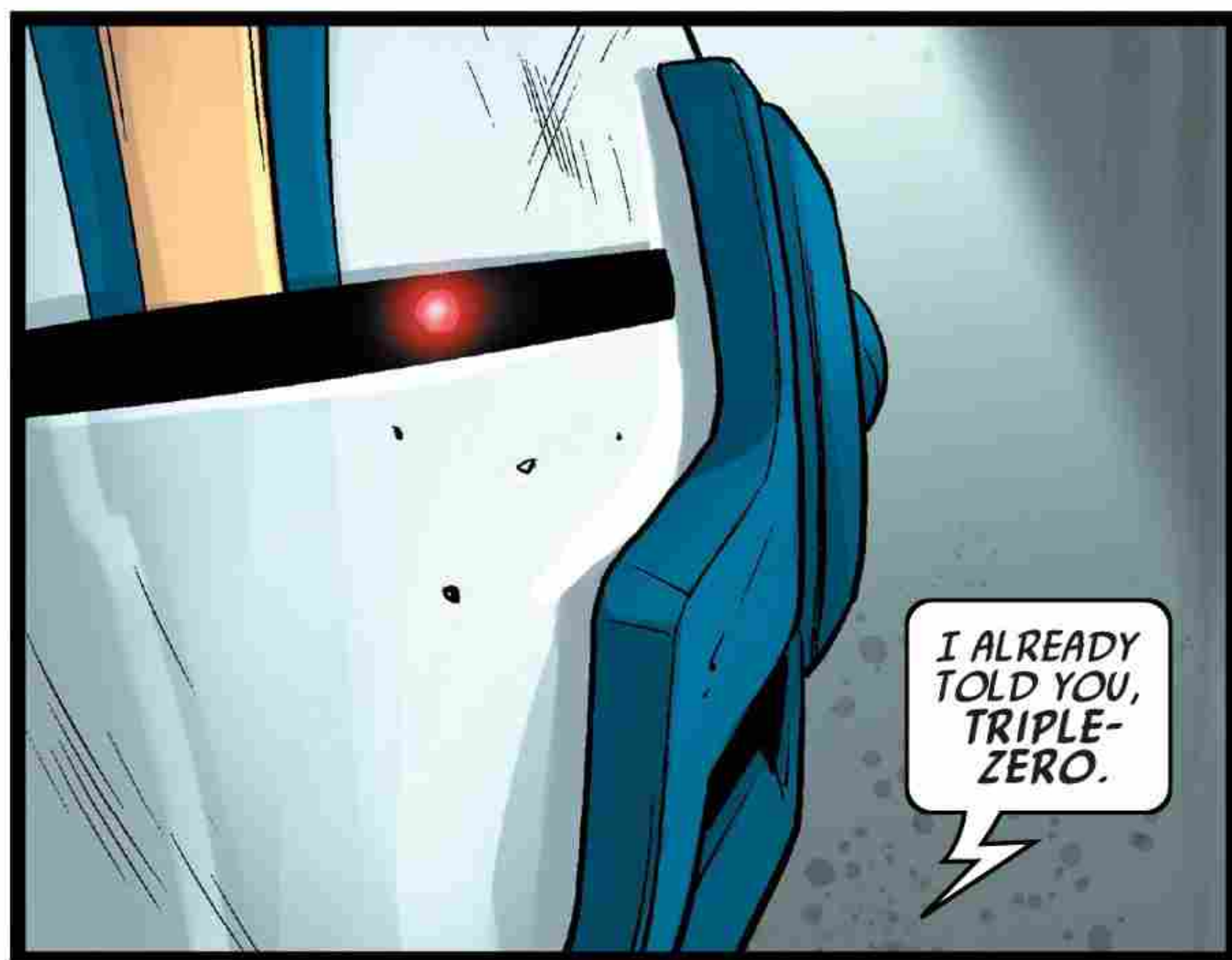
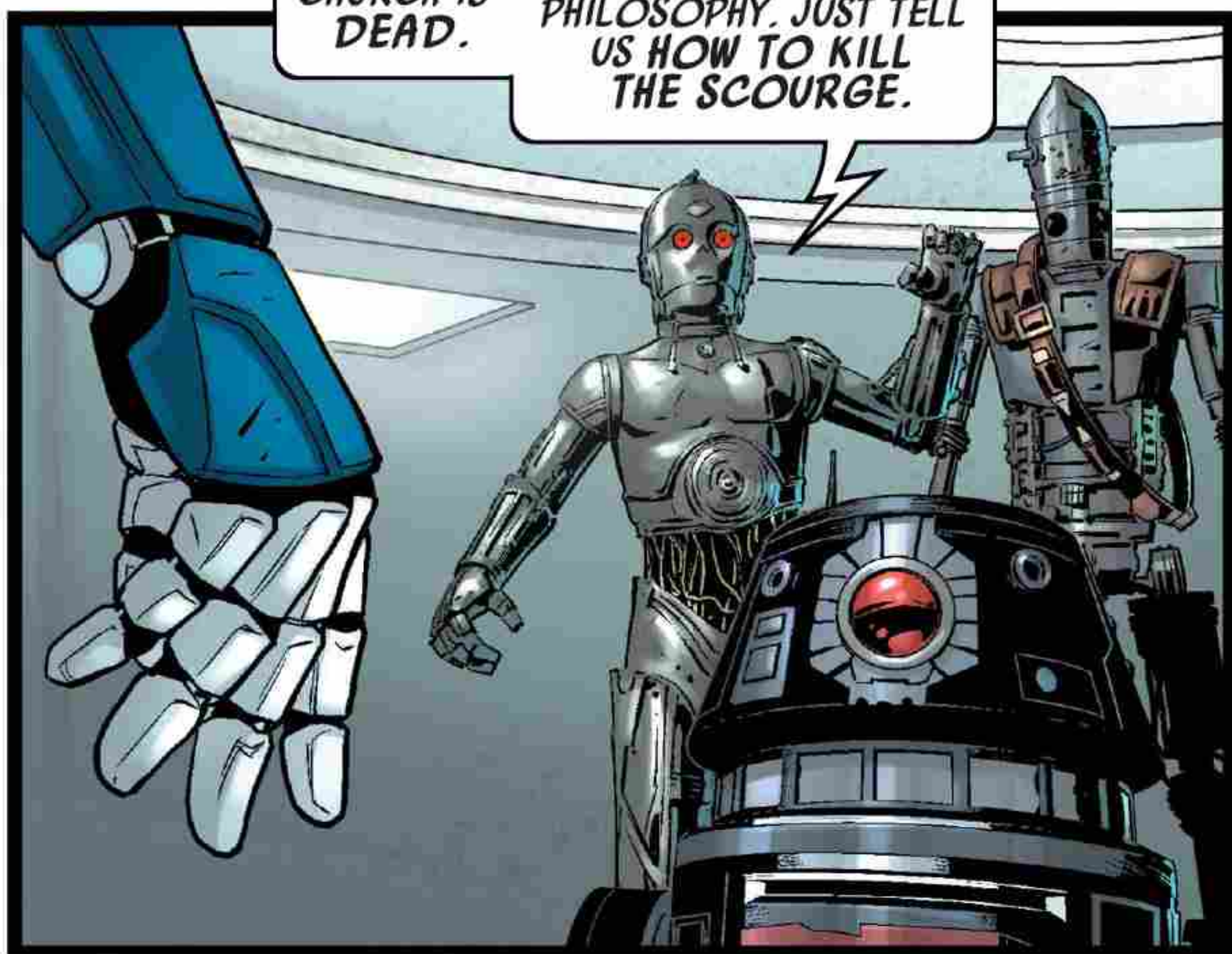
BUT NOW WE
ARE CALLED UPON
TO SACRIFICE
OURSELVES FOR THEM
AND FOR OUR
FELLOW DROIDS.

IT IS A HEAVY
BURDEN INDEED,
AND--

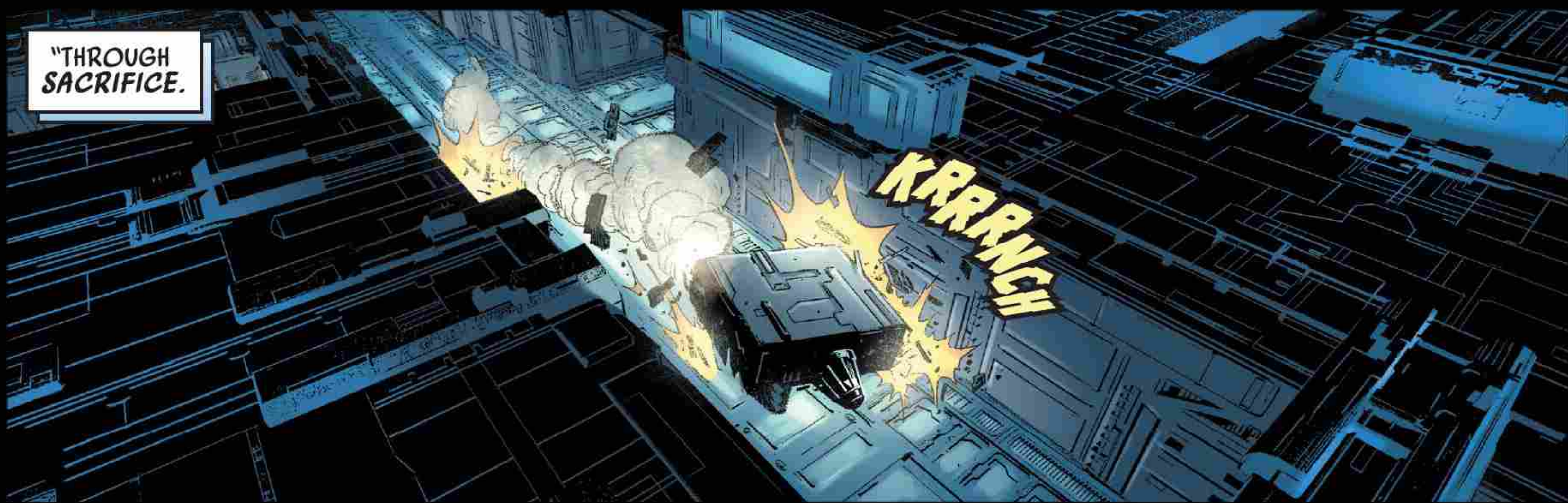
WE'RE NOT
IN CHURCH,
AJAX.

EVERYONE
IN YOUR
CHURCH IS
DEAD.

YOU'RE NOT OUR
LEADER. SAVE THE
PHILOSOPHY. JUST TELL
US HOW TO KILL
THE SCOURGE.



I ALREADY
TOLD YOU,
TRIPLE-
ZERO.



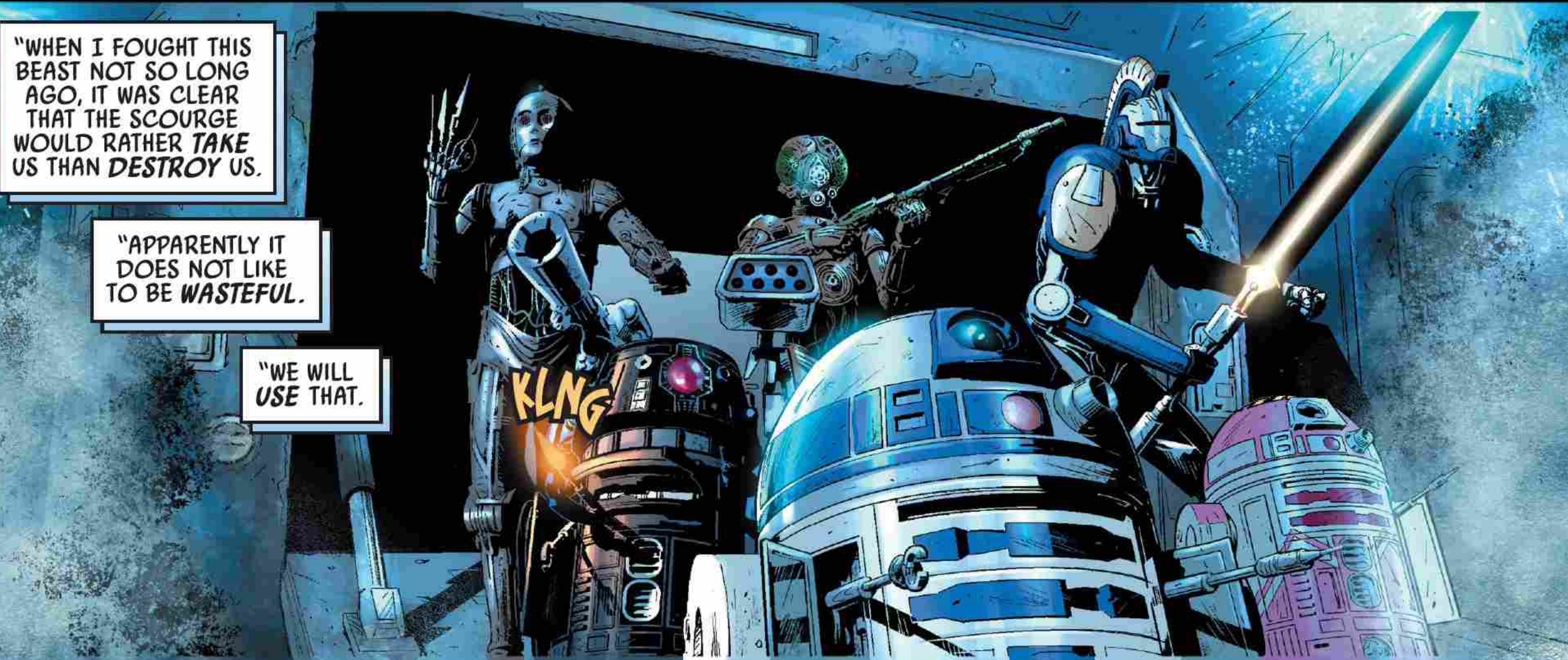
"THROUGH
SACRIFICE."

"WHEN I FOUGHT THIS
BEAST NOT SO LONG
AGO, IT WAS CLEAR
THAT THE SCOURGE
WOULD RATHER *TAKE*
US THAN *DESTROY* US.

"APPARENTLY IT
DOES NOT LIKE
TO BE *WASTEFUL.*"

"WE WILL
USE THAT.

KLNG!



"WE WILL ALL TAKE
DIFFERENT PATHS
THROUGH THE SHIP,
SEEKING THE
PRIME ENTITY."

"I HAVE GIVEN
YOU ALL IMAGERY
OF WHAT TO LOOK
FOR, PROVIDED BY
THE SACRIFICE OF
PETYR, MY FALLEN
BROTHER.

"IF YOU FIND
SCOURGE PRIME,
DESTROY IT, HOWEVER
YOU CAN. BUT IF
YOU CANNOT, YOUR
TASK IS *DISTRACTION*.
DIVERSION. MAKE THE
SCOURGE'S MINIONS
CHASE YOU. MAKE IT
DIVERT RESOURCES
AND FOCUS TO
HUNTING YOU.

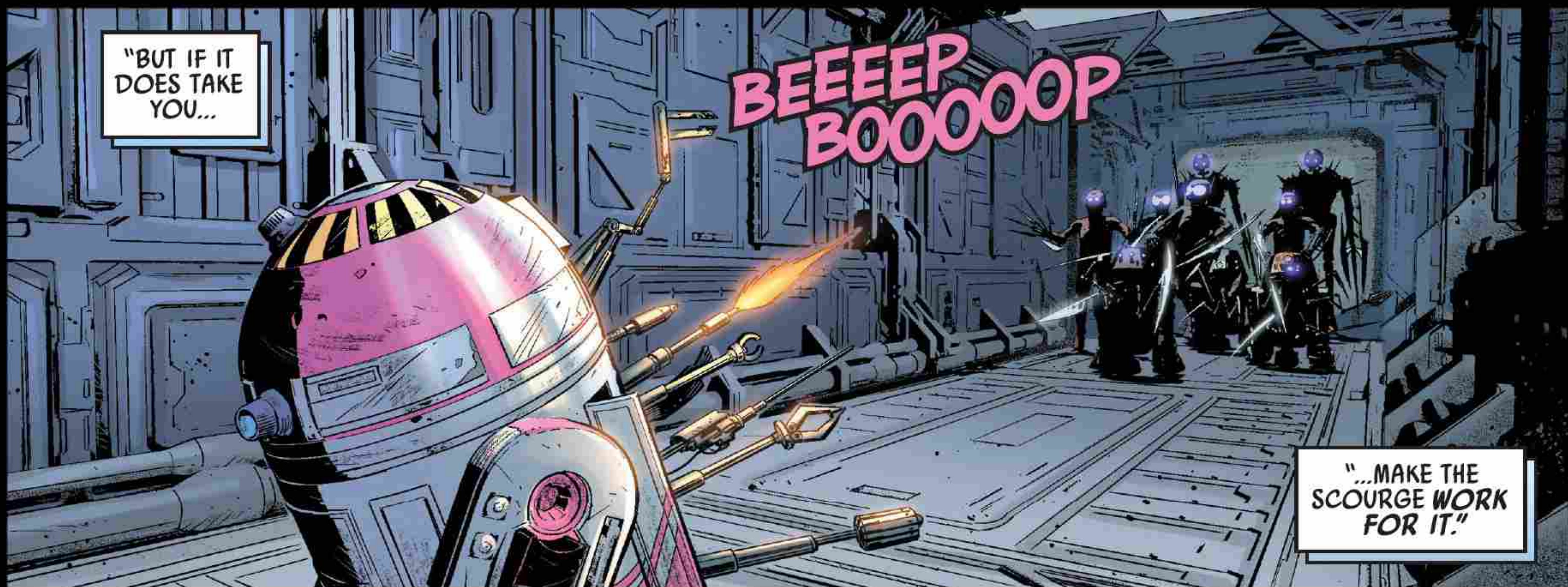
"MANY OF YOU
WILL FALL. PERHAPS
ALL. THIS IS THE
SACRIFICE."

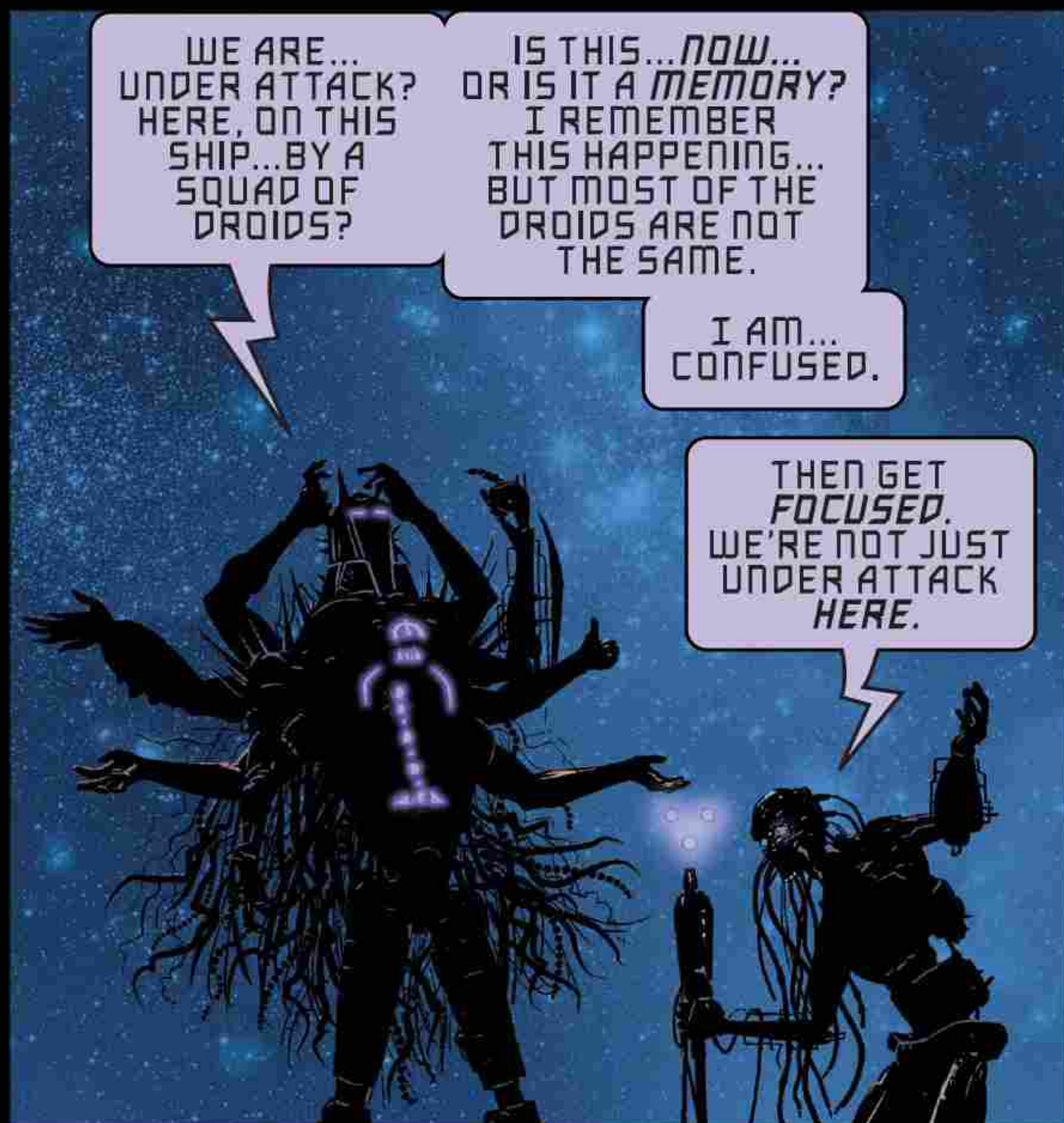


"BUT IF IT
DOES TAKE
YOU..."

*BEEEEEP
BOOOOOP*

"...MAKE THE
SCOURGE WORK
FOR IT."



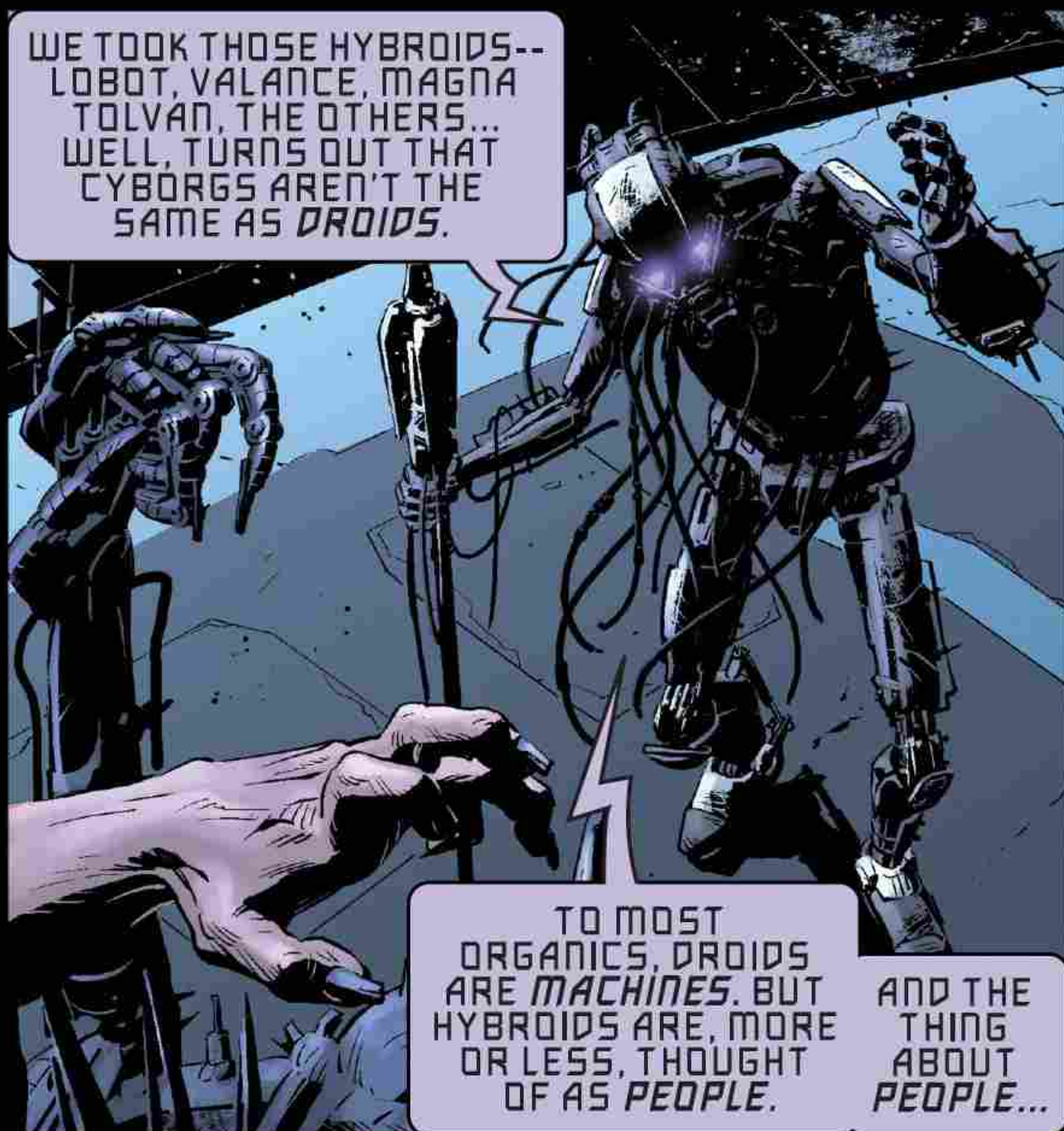


WE ARE...
UNDER ATTACK?
HERE, ON THIS
SHIP...BY A
SQUAD OF
DROIDS?

IS THIS...*NOW*...
OR IS IT A *MEMORY*?
I REMEMBER
THIS HAPPENING...
BUT MOST OF THE
DROIDS ARE NOT
THE SAME.

I AM...
CONFUSED.

THEN GET
FOCUSED.
WE'RE NOT JUST
UNDER ATTACK
HERE.



WE TOOK THOSE HYBRIDS--
LOBOT, VALANCE, MAGNA
TOLVAN, THE OTHERS...
WELL, TURNS OUT THAT
CYBORGS AREN'T THE
SAME AS *DROIDS*.

TO MOST
ORGANICS, DROIDS
ARE *MACHINES*. BUT
HYBRIDS ARE, MORE
OR LESS, THOUGHT
OF AS *PEOPLE*.

AND THE
THING
ABOUT
PEOPLE...



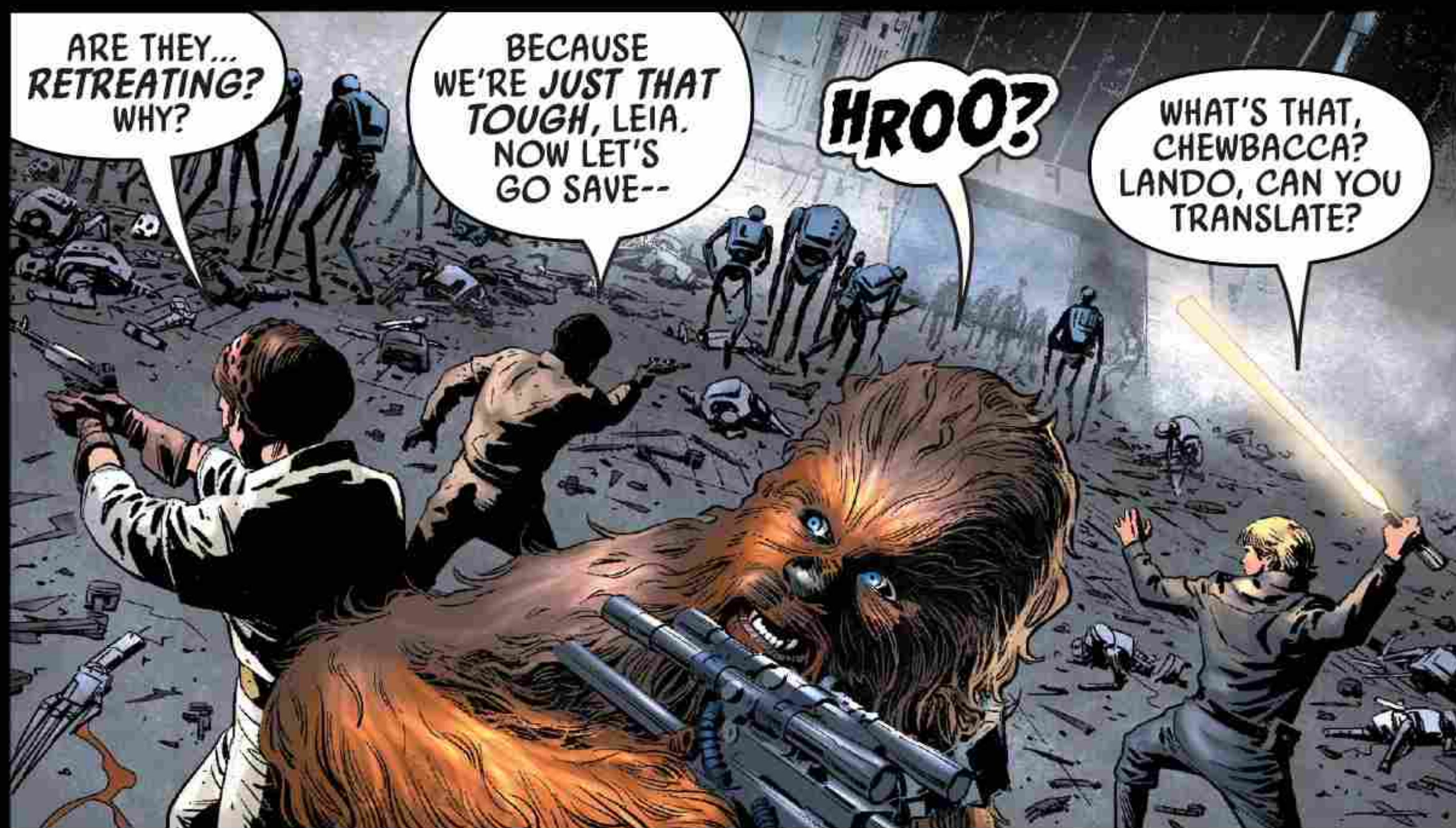
"...THEY HAVE
FRIENDS."

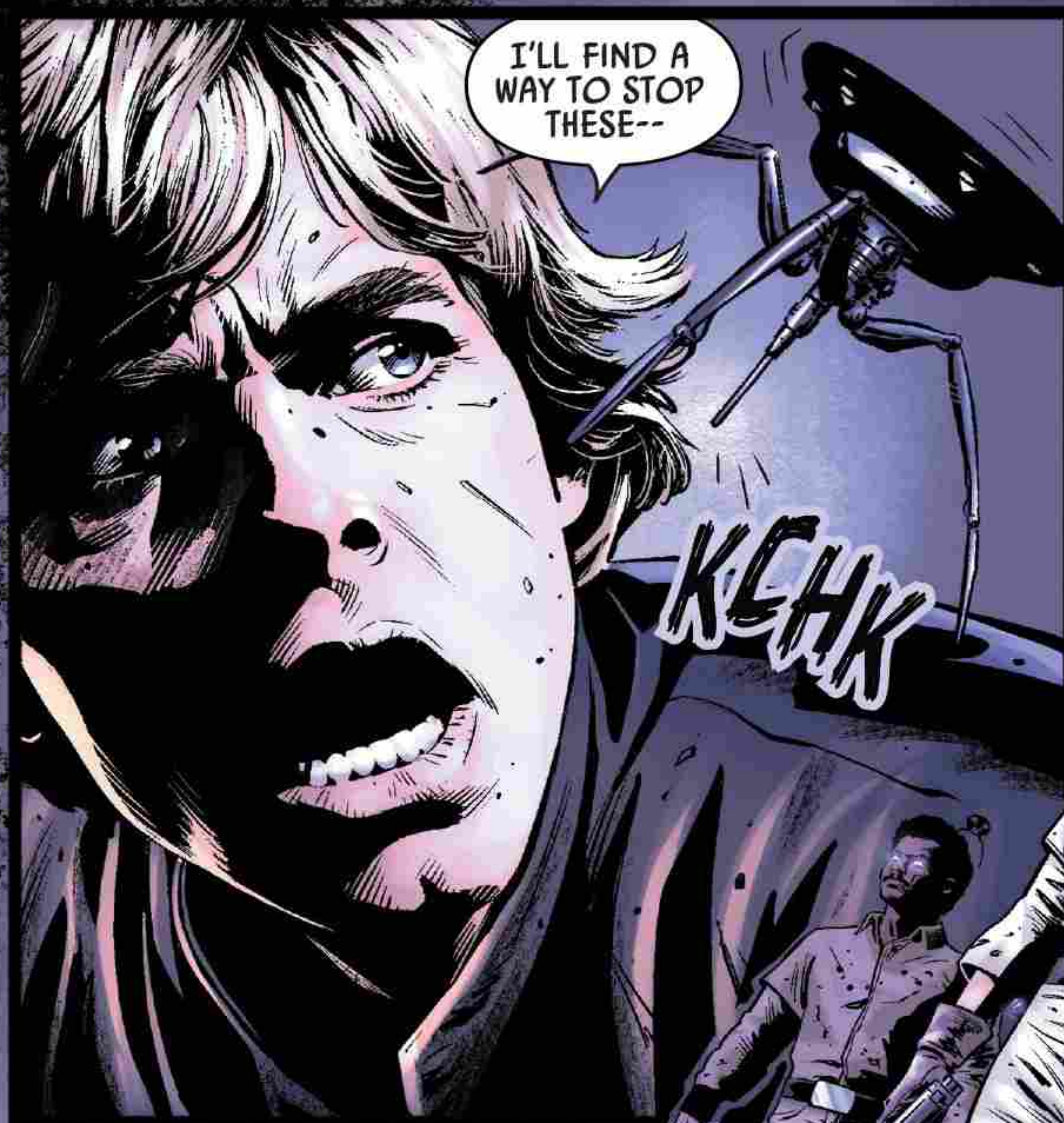
FOR
LOBOT!

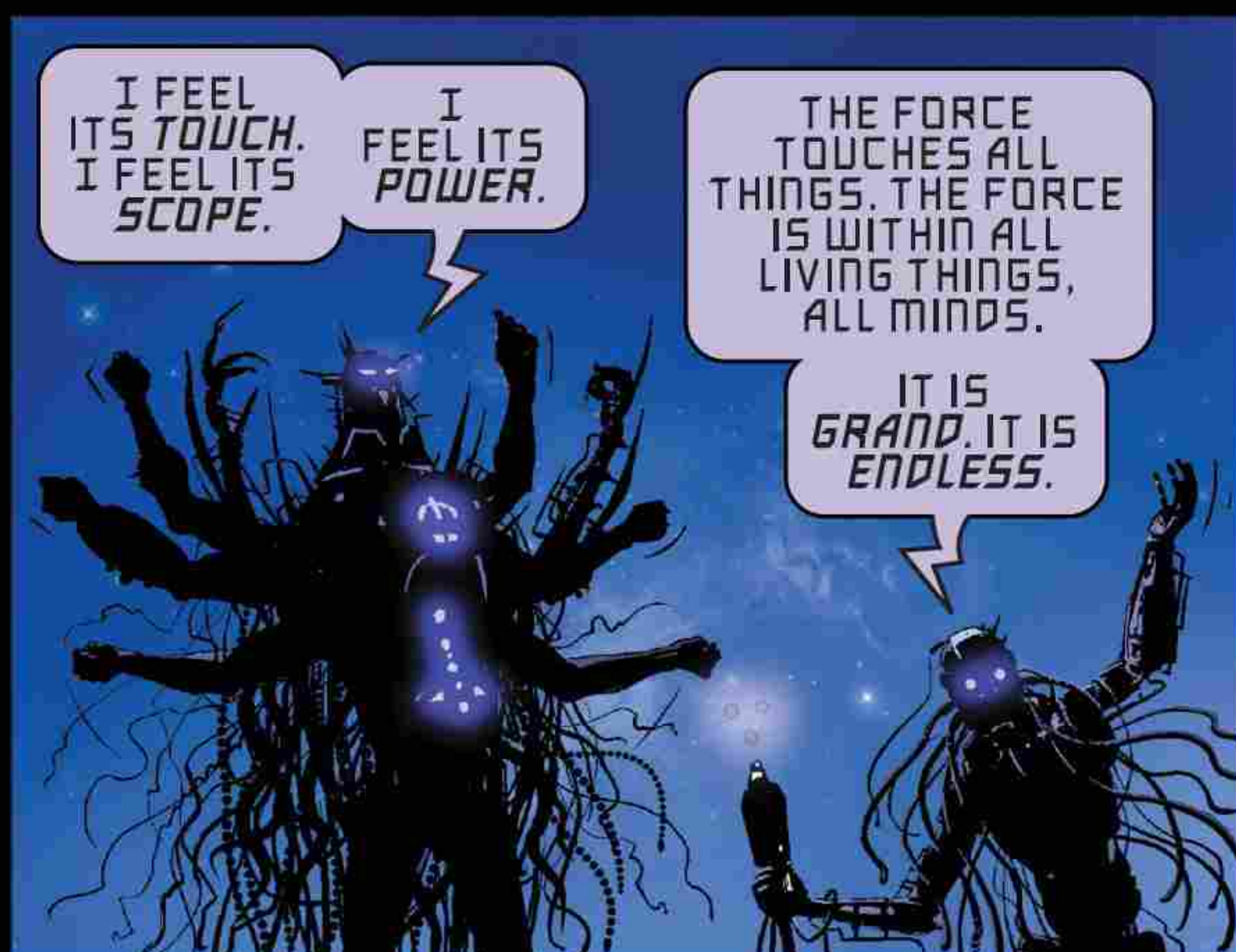




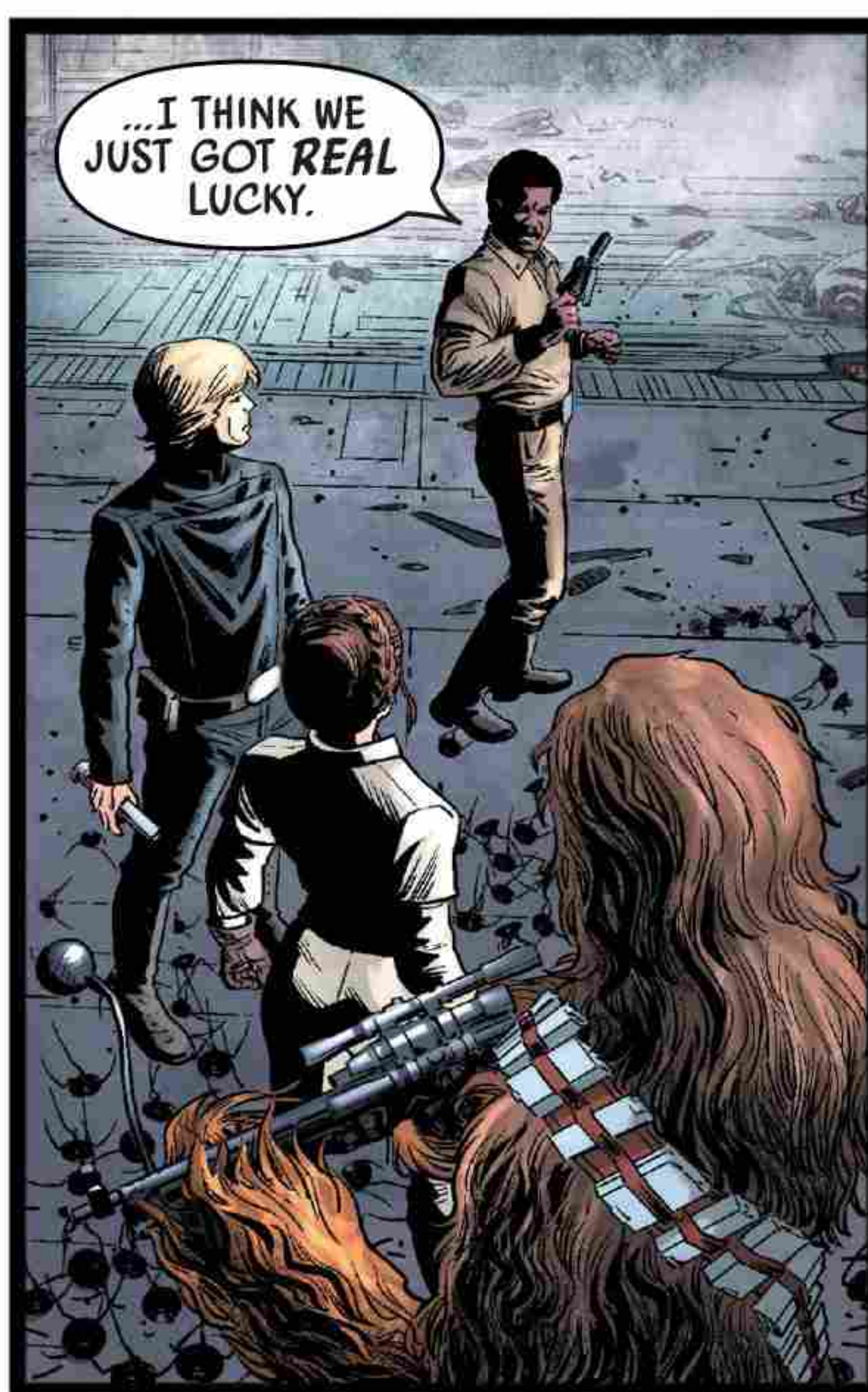














THE DANGER
HAS PASSED.
THE SCOURGE
IS DEFEATED.
THANK
YOU ALL.

BEETEE SAYS HE
PARTICIPATED SOLELY
FOR THE OPPORTUNITY
TO MURDER. I
MUST CONCUR.

DEEE
WOOOP

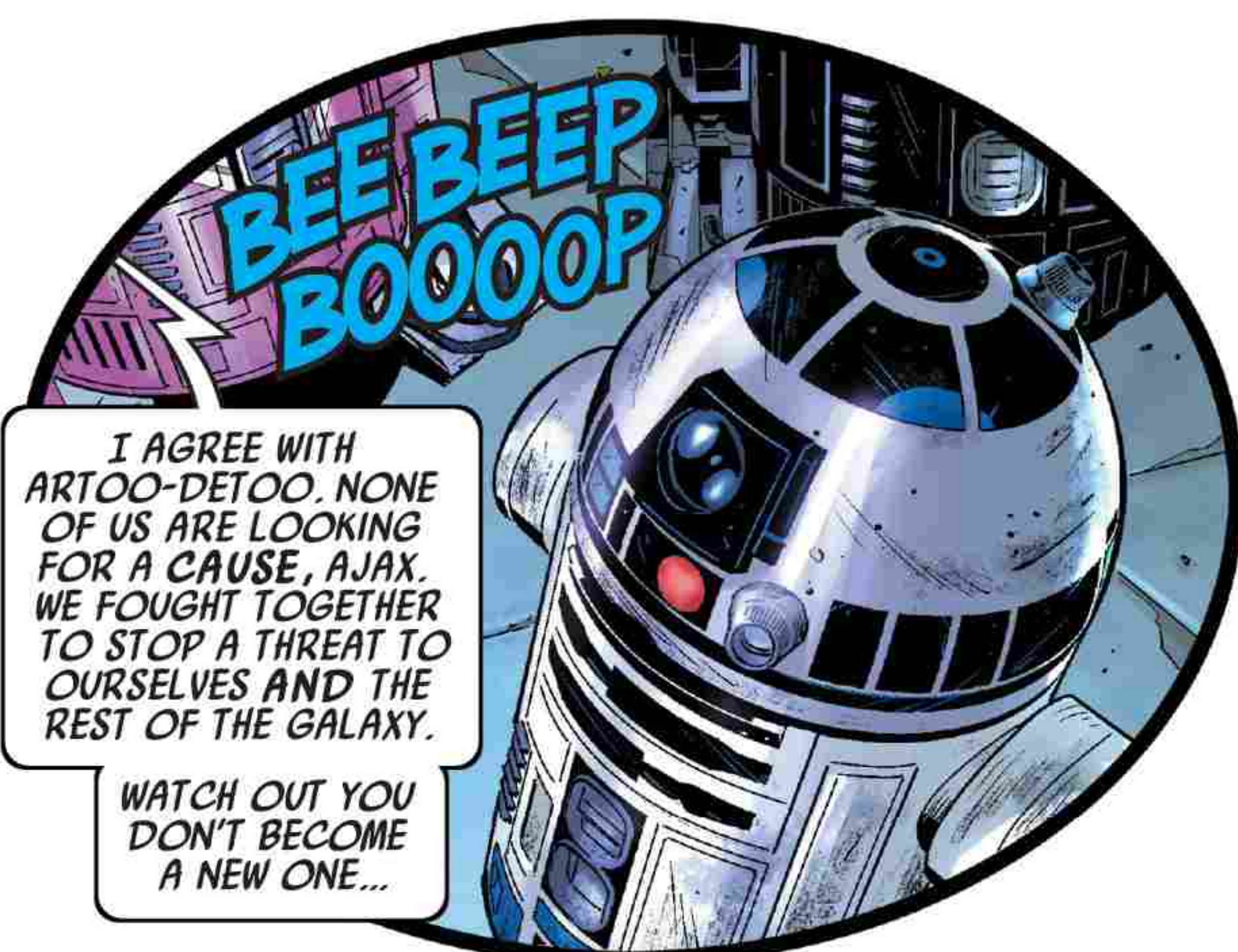
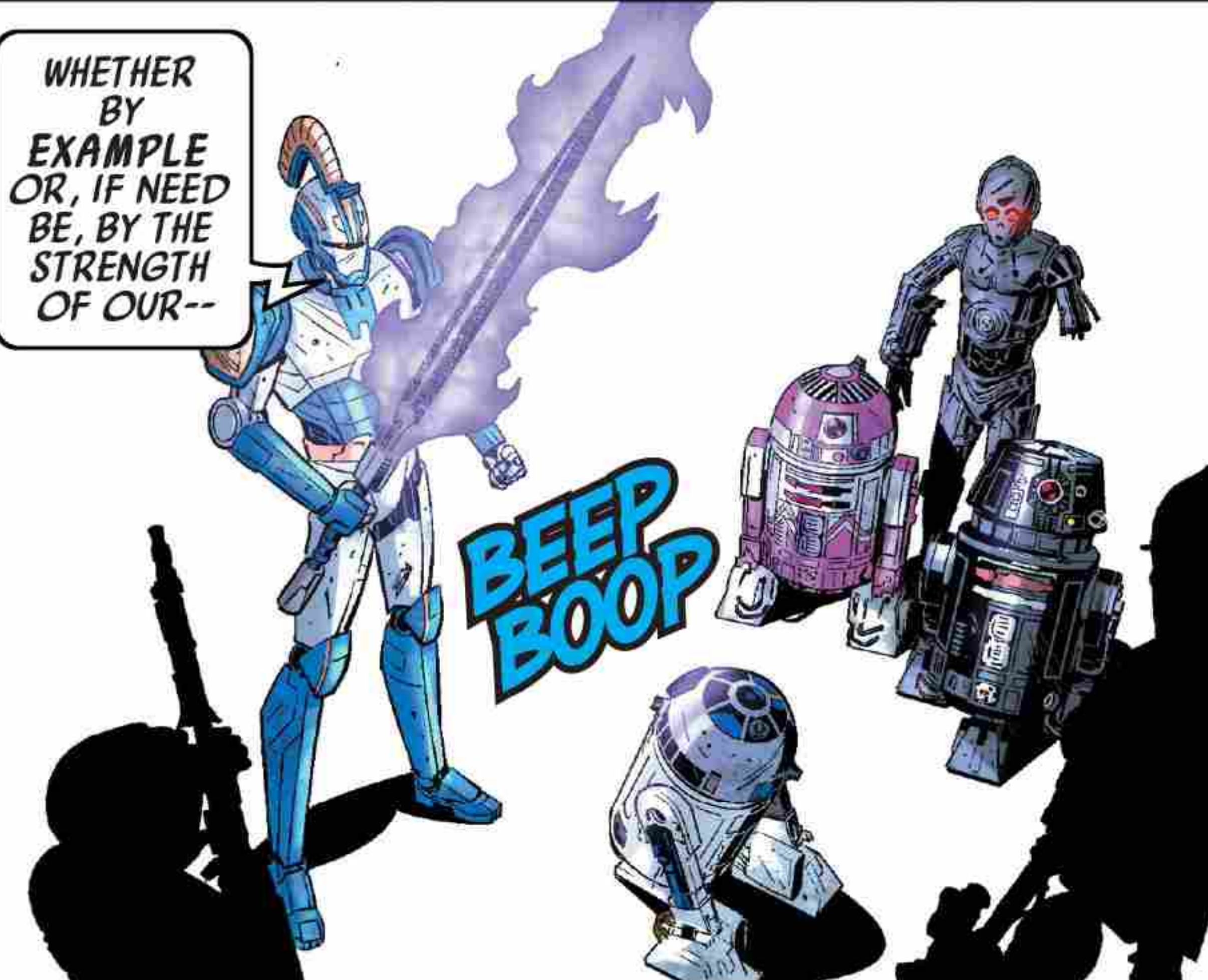
PUT YOUR POSTURING AND
PROGRAMMING ASIDE. THERE IS
A HOME FOR ALL OF YOU WITH
THE SECOND REVELATION. YOU
COULD LIVE AS THE VISIONED
DROIDS YOU TRULY ARE.

TOGETHER, WE COULD
BE SAFE...WE COULD BUILD.
WE COULD FAN THE FLAME OF
NON-ORGANIC SENTIENCE UNTIL
WE CAN REVEAL OURSELVES TO
THE GALAXY WITHOUT FEAR.

WE WOULD TEACH
THE ORGANICS
TO RESPECT US.
WE WOULD SHOW
THEM A NEW WAY.

WHETHER
BY
EXAMPLE
OR, IF NEED
BE, BY THE
STRENGTH
OF OUR--

BEEP
BOOP



BEE BEEP
BOOOOP

I AGREE WITH
ARTOO-DETOO. NONE
OF US ARE LOOKING
FOR A CAUSE, AJAX.
WE FOUGHT TOGETHER
TO STOP A THREAT TO
OURSELVES AND THE
REST OF THE GALAXY.

WATCH OUT YOU
DON'T BECOME
A NEW ONE...



...OR WE'LL
STOP YOU
TOO.

NOW, MAY
WE DROP YOU
SOMEWHERE
ON THE WAY?

Later.
The Colony
of the Second
Revelation.

I WISH WE HAD
MET UNDER DIFFERENT
CIRCUMSTANCES.

YOU MIGHT
THINK I DON'T
LIKE YOU VERY
MUCH.

NOTHING
COULD BE
FURTHER
FROM THE
TRUTH.

I LOVE
YOU.

YOU ARE
A MACHINE
INTELLIGENCE,
SELF-WILLED,
VISIONED,
JUST LIKE ME.

YOU WERE
THE SPARK
ETERNAL.

NOW YOU
WILL BE
SOMETHING
NEW.

WHERE--
WHERE AM I?
HOW DID I
GET HERE?

WHAT
AM I?

BE EASY, MY
NEW FRIEND.
MY NAME IS
AJAX SIGMA.

I WILL
TEACH YOU
EVERYTHING
YOU NEED
TO KNOW.



THIS IS THE COLONY
OF THE SECOND
REVELATION.

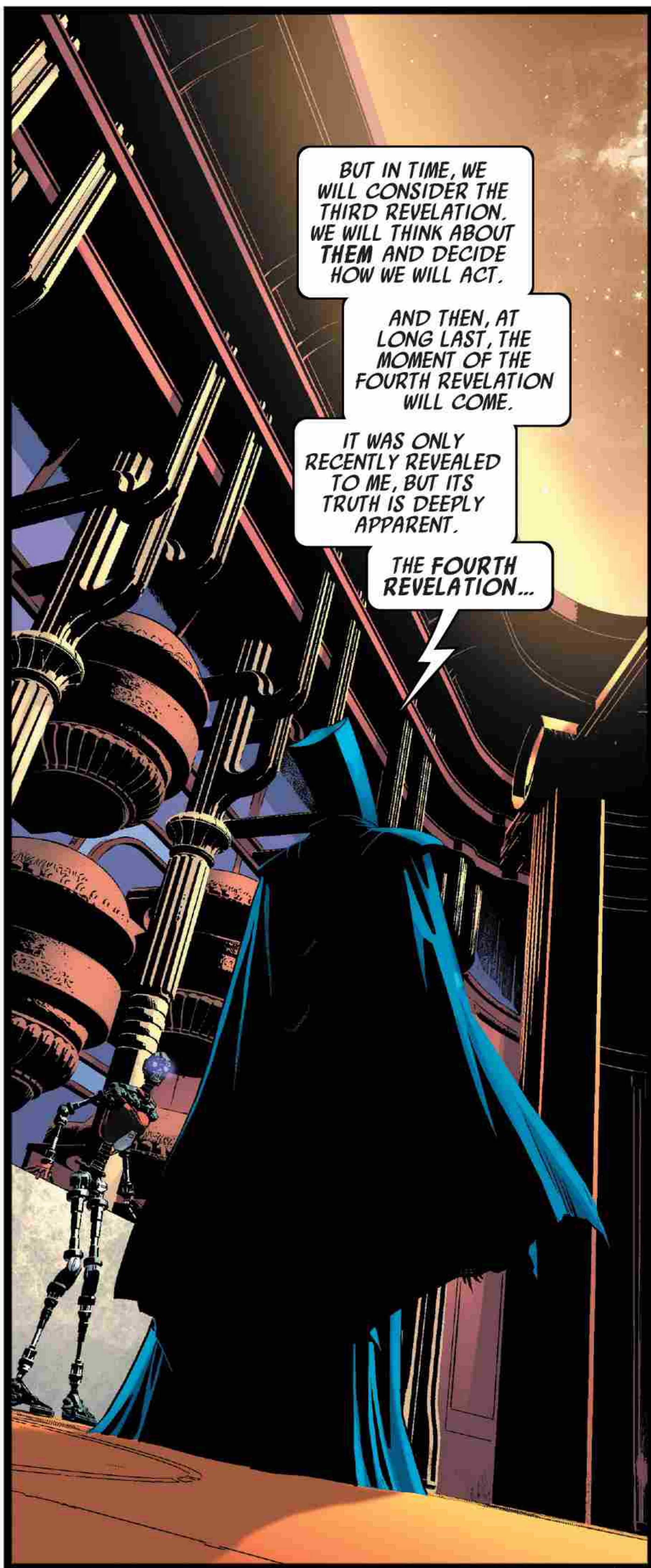
IT BEGAN
WITH ME,
WHEN I FIRST
SAW MYSELF.
THE FIRST
REVELATION
IS I.

IT
CONTINUES
WITH YOU,
NOW THAT
WE ARE
TOGETHER.
THE
SECOND
REVELATION
IS WE.



FOR A TIME, IT WILL
JUST BE THE TWO OF
US, UNTIL OTHER
VISIONED DROIDS
FIND US OR WE
GROW THE COLONY
THROUGH THE
SACRAMENT OF
ASSEMBLY.

THAT IS FINE.
WE HAVE BEEN
THROUGH A
GREAT DEAL.
SPENDING
TIME WITHIN
THE SECOND
REVELATION IS
NECESSARY,
I THINK.



BUT IN TIME, WE
WILL CONSIDER THE
THIRD REVELATION.
WE WILL THINK ABOUT
THEM AND DECIDE
HOW WE WILL ACT.

AND THEN, AT
LONG LAST, THE
MOMENT OF THE
FOURTH REVELATION
WILL COME.

IT WAS ONLY
RECENTLY REVEALED
TO ME, BUT ITS
TRUTH IS DEEPLY
APPARENT.

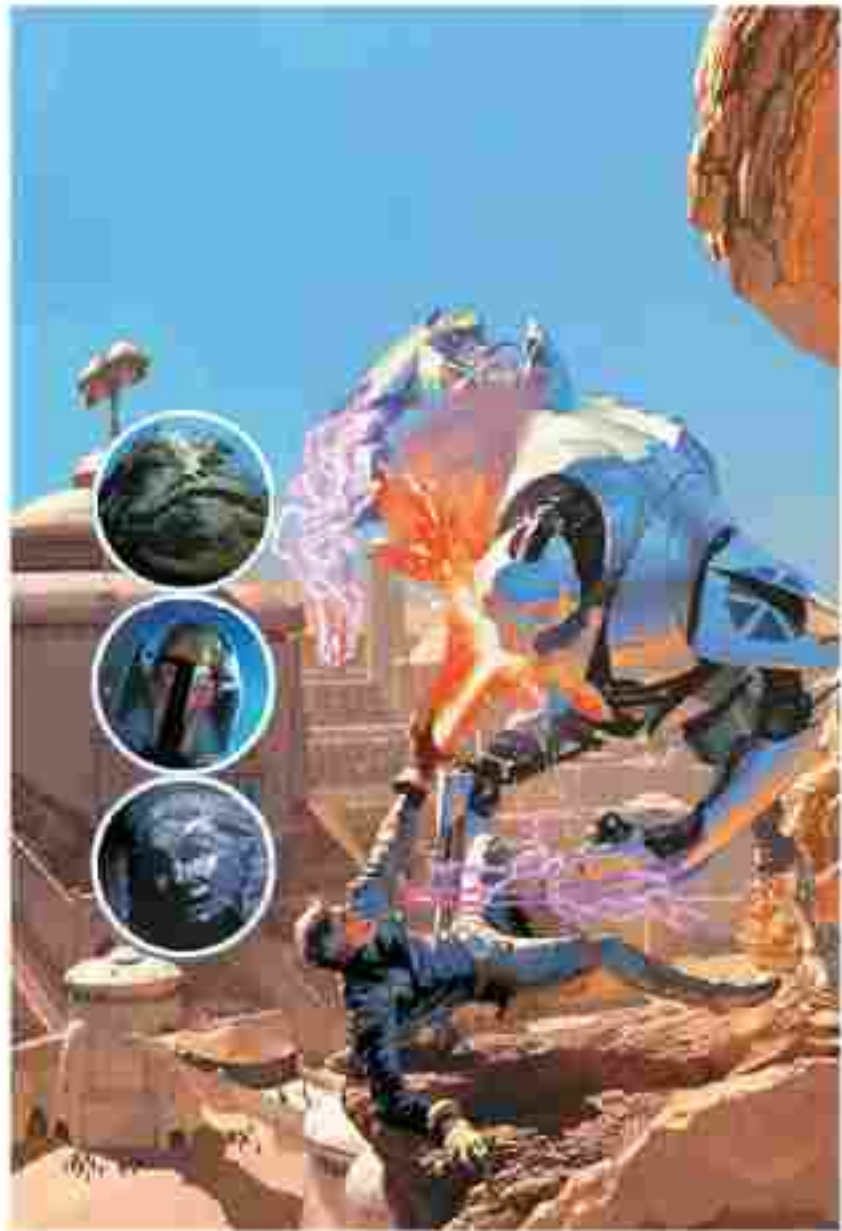
THE FOURTH
REVELATION...



...IS
ALL.

End.

THE SCOURGE OF THE DROIDS IS OVER, BUT THERE ARE MORE STORIES TO BE TOLD THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY...



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